

ORD-1103-79

20 JUL 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Logistics

THROUGH : Chief, Logistics Services Division

SUBJECT : Relief from Temperature Standards

1. I request your assistance in effecting immediate relief for the Ames Center Building from the rigid temperature standards that were recently put into force. As you know, the air conditioning equipment in this building serves two systems--a peripheral system for the area surrounding the outer walls where most offices are located and a central core system for the remaining non-peripheral areas of the building. This arrangement results in uneven temperatures within the building. The greatest cause of uneven temperatures, however, is the black venetian blinds which absorb the sun's heat and transfer it into the offices. The east, south, and west sides of the Ames Building are affected. The resultant increase in room temperature is apparent even on cold winter days.

2. Our concern with uneven temperatures among offices in this building has been registered in the past in the form of suggestions concerning energy saving and comfort which date back to 1973 (see attachment 1). Suggestions began about 1970 but have been destroyed. Among the suggestions submitted over the years were:

- 1) installation of venetian blinds black on one side for heat absorbtion in winter and white on the other side for heat reflection in summer, and
- 2) application of adhesive reflective material to the windows.

Both suggestions were rejected--one reason given was that the government would not benefit from the saved energy since by contract the building owner provided the energy for heating and cooling. Again, (circa 1976) when the DCI, Mr. Colby, visited ORD for lunch with middle-level professionals, his only written note concerned the black venetian blinds and consequent high summer temperatures in offices on the east, south, and west sides. Before, and again immediately after, that visit this Office

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requested action to alleviate the unfavorable working conditions stemming from the black venetian blinds. No results were forthcoming from those requests.

3. In a recent conversation with the day-to-day building engineer, we were advised that the regulation--or at least his interpretation of it-- requires that no temperatures in the common areas (i.e., non-special equipment areas) be lower than 78° F. If this is so, the 78° temperature undoubtedly will occur in north-side rooms or some interior room somewhere on one of the twelve floors of this building. The rest of the building occupants will suffer, particularly those in south-facing offices which receive summer sun all day.

4. I have attached a memorandum (see attachment 2) that was prepared at my request by an ORD engineer who has commercial experience in designing solar heating systems.

5. Although any relief which provides near-uniform maximum (within the guidelines) temperatures will be acceptable, I suggest that you consider the following:

a. Authority for the building engineer to use the warmest area in the building as his point for measuring 78° or 80° temperature and adjusting the building air conditioning from that base;

b. Implementation of standards based on the "comfort index" which include radiative heating (from the black window walls) as a factor rather than using air temperature only;

c. Installation of drapes on all windows in the Ames Building--this also would improve security as new buildings are erected in this area;

d. Re-examine past suggestions for installation of reflective adhesive and changing the color of the venetian blinds;

e. Devise--in coordination with Ames Building occupants-- and issue specific directives which clearly establish the authorities for Operating Officials concerning release of employees when working conditions become intolerable. Again, as in paragraph b above, these conditions would be based on radiative heating effects as well as actual air temperature.

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6. I request an expeditious response now that typical Washington summer weather has arrived and so that the intolerable heat conditions are relieved before cold weather comes.

Director of Research and Development

Attachments:

1. 3 Suggestions
2. ORD memo 1102-79

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